

UNEMPLOYMENT IN OHIO

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year-and-a-half the administration and the majority in Congress have enacted legislation authorizing an unprecedented amount of government spending and intervention in private enterprise. I opposed many of these measures because I believed they spent money we don't have on programs that would not stimulate the economy.

An Ohio-based economist recently released a report stating that the State of Ohio has lost a staggering 587,000 jobs since 2001. In particular, the report indicated that at the end of the last decade each of Ohio's 88 counties lost employment, a total of 338,000 jobs, or 6.6 percent of all employment that year.

Specifically, my home county, Montgomery County, was one of the hardest hit counties in the State and the Nation. Over the past 9 years, Montgomery County has lost 20 percent of its total jobs and 53 percent of its manufacturing sector jobs. Today, current unemployment rates in my district for Montgomery County total over 12 percent, Clinton County over 17 percent, Highland County over 17 percent, Warren County over 9 percent.

The American people are looking for both sides to find reasonable solutions to these critical challenges. Congress needs to curb our out-of-control spending and enact bipartisan, commonsense solutions to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because of the policies of the last administration, the Bush administration, our Nation is going through the most difficult economic times in its history, and unemployment is around 10 percent. We must do everything we can to help create jobs, especially for those struggling to support their families. That is why I support the goals of the Local Jobs for America Act.

We need a bill that will create and save millions of public and private jobs in local communities. This bill is intended to help ensure that local communities can still operate essential services, to help prevent State and local tax increases, to stimulate local businesses, and create more jobs in the local community.

The Local Jobs for America Act is aimed to get our economy back on track and Americans back to work. We have short memories sometimes and we forget where the problem began. It did not start with this administration. It was done by the last administration.

PASS A BUDGET

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day we still have no budget. And now it appears we will not even be offered a budget resolution for the first time since the adoption of the 1974 Congressional Budget Act.

Across the country, people are hurting and being forced to cut back on their spending. An article in USA Today released today cited income from private wages fell to an all-time low during the first quarter of this year. While our private sector is losing jobs and cutting wages, the Federal Government, under the leadership of this Congress, has been irresponsibly seeking to spend trillions of dollars on a stimulus package full of pet projects, a job killing cap-and-trade proposal, and a budget-busting, if we had a budget, health proposal.

While Americans across the country are making a budget and sticking to it, I think it's time that we in Congress sit down under their leadership, make a budget, and stick to it.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

HELP AVERAGE AMERICANS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this Congress to put the interests of the average American ahead of corporate special interests. In this tough economy, my three top priorities are jobs, jobs, jobs. That's true for America. We must provide opportunity to everyone who is willing to work hard to make the best of their God-given ability.

There is an important piece of legislation on the House floor this week that will help to get our economy going and boost jobs. Yesterday, I visited a coffee shop in Raleigh, North Carolina, that's thriving now after getting an SBA loan from the Small Business Administration. I also visited a North Carolina high-tech company yesterday. Even in this tough economy they're growing, adding jobs, and hiring. And they're counting on the R&D tax credit.

We need to act to empower local folks on the ground and get our economy running again. It's time to put aside politics to focus on the next generation rather than the next election.

PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, a government is what it spends, and a government without a budget is a

government without direction. A highly intelligent man once put it this way: "If you can't budget, you can't govern." The man responsible for those words was none other than JOHN SPRATT, the Democratic chairman of the House Budget Committee. He made that statement 4 years ago.

Likewise, 4 years ago now-House Majority Leader STENY HOYER said, "Enacting a budget is the most basic responsibility of governing."

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of bipartisanship let me just strongly affirm the sentiments of my Democrat colleagues in this case. As we now find ourselves well over a month past the April 15 budget deadline, with essentially no progress to be shown on any budget, something that hasn't happened in 35 years, truly this tax-and-spend Democrat majority is failing the most basic responsibility of governing and is categorically demonstrating its inability to govern in any responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have stepped up the fight against terrorists and are getting real results that make Americans safe. Democrats are strengthening our security by restoring America's global leadership. We have ended torture. We are working with our allies and are getting countries like Pakistan to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. We have increased funding for counterintelligence activities and human intelligence collection. We have enhanced cybersecurity efforts and bolstered aviation, ports, and border security.

We are ensuring troops, veterans, and their families have the support they need on the battlefield and when they come home. That means state-of-the-art equipment and body armor and mine-resistant vehicles that they need to bring them home safely. And we have also made historic investments in our veterans' health care and improved the benefits they have earned when they return home. And we passed a GI Bill for a new generation so that our troops and their family members will have access to a quality education.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are making America stronger.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to perform one